

NEW EDEN BAPTIST CHURCH INVOLVES THE BLACK CLERGY IN COMMUNITY HIV/AIDS PREVENTION PROJECT

New Eden Baptist Church, located in the South Ward of Newark New Jersey is a private, non-profit, tax exempt, black Baptist Church, which was incorporated in 1965. This organization was established for the purposes of public worship, educating the youth and adult populations, as well as to provide for the social and religious welfare of the church in general and the community at large. The purpose of the church has remained the same, since it was established by Jesus Christ over 2,000 years ago.

New Eden Baptist Church is pastored by Reverend Dr. John H. Shorter, the founder of this organization. It has a Board of Directors which consists of seven Deacons, seven Trustees, and a seven member ministerial staff. There are currently 575 members of the church.

Funds are being requested to support an HIV/AIDS community prevention project to educate the black clergy of Newark and their congregations about AIDS, in an effort to get their participation in the community's efforts to address the AIDS crisis in Newark.

Our target population will include the powerful 100 member North Jersey Committee of Black Churchmen, which consists of the "Pastors" of 100 black churches in Newark. Once the Pastors have been educated, we plan to educate their congregations about AIDS, to impact approximately 15,000 minority individuals.

Since New Eden Baptist Church volunteered to serve as one of the nine feeding sites for the homeless of the City, the opportunity also exists to provide information and facts on AIDS to an additional 100 homeless people.

A certified AIDS Coordinator will work with the clergy and implement a one day conference for the 100 black church pastors, to give them information about AIDS. Once the Pastors have been trained, 25 youth outreach workers along with the workshop leaders, will present a workshop, seasoned with a play and gospel music detailing what it is like to have AIDS. The outreach workers will base the play on their interviews and interaction with actual AIDS victims. We plan to sensitize the religious community to AIDS and stress the fact that they can no longer afford to close their eyes to the disease and hope that it will go away. The outreach workers shall also conduct street meetings as a means to educate the community about Aids.

A pre and post-test will be administered to each participant to determine whether the information gained through the program was retained. The program is budgeted at approximately \$130,000 for a 12 month period. We plan to continue this project for three years until all of the churches have been reached.